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Committee was to bring about community of action, so that there should not be discordant reports, and so that the entire country might be disposed to view the joint report with favor, it would seem best that your Committee of Fifteen should not bring in a separate report conflicting with the report of the Joint Committee. The only way by which the desired result can be assured would appear to be that your Committee of Fifteen should act, as it did in the other work confided to it, through a sub-committee, the members of the sub-committee in the present case to be those eight members of the entire committee (now reduced by resignations to twelve) who are members of the Joint Committee.

This arrangement, further, would lighten the necessarily heavy work of the chairman of the Joint Committee. The English Joint Committee had twenty-four meetings averaging three hours and a quarter each. Nothing of the sort seems to be possible for us. We must work mainly by correspondence. The codification of the material and of the criticism offered by the committee, and the sending out of duplicate statements to fifteen members, is in itself a large task. It would be greatly increased if these statements had to be sent to twenty-one members, and the answers of the two bodies had to be kept distinct. I hold myself at your disposal, nevertheless, to do whatever you think best.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. HALE.

December 28, 1911.

The report was accepted and its recommendation referred to the Executiv Council.

Professor John W. Cunliffe presented the following report of the Committee on the Reproduction of Early Texts:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPRODUCTION OF EARLY TEXTS.

The Committee has a modified satisfaction in reporting that the reproduction of the Cædmon MS. has been undertaken by the British Academy through the generosity of an English donor. The letter of Professor Gollancz making this announcement is annex to this report. The chairman of the committee has endeavored to obtain further particulars, but has not as yet succeeded. It is, therefore,

suggested that the committee should be continued in order to safeguard the interests of American subscribers to the *Cædmon* facsimile, and to assist in the reproduction of other MSS.

J. W. CUNLIFFE, *Chairman*.
C. M. GAYLEY.
G. L. KITTREDGE.
J. M. MANLY.
H. A. TODD.

KING'S COLLEGE
(University of London)

STRAND, W. C., August 22, 1911.

Dear Professor Cunliffe:

Pray pardon all this delay—but various matters have been claiming my attention these past weeks.

You will be glad to hear that the *Cædmon* difficulty has at last been solved. Someone has generously placed the means at my disposal for the issue thro' the British Academy of the Facsimile—to commemorate the Tercentenary of the Authorized Version of the Bible. Of course the Oxford University Press is to have charge of the work—but the Press was not willing to undertake the reproduction at their own risk. It is understood that the rights of the American subscribers are to be safeguarded.

It is hoped that this solution will give you and your committee the greatest satisfaction. True you are not yourselves carrying the project through,—but you have materially helped it forward, and the thanks of all concerned are due to you.

There have been at least a dozen efforts during the last 25 years to reproduce the MS.

We are going ahead also with the Furnivall Series for the E. E. T. S. Cotton Nero Ax (containing Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, and Sir Gawayne) is to be the first issue. Hope to have it out (the reproduction is ready to all intents and purposes) on February 4, our dear friend's birthday. The cost of this Facsimile has also been guaranteed.

I trust your committee will coöperate with us, in securing for members of the Modern Language Association, copies on the same terms as we shall be offering to the E. E. T. S. members.

In all there will be 250 copies of the MS. (plus 150 of Pearl alone). Can we devise some scheme for joint publication—or at all events

for special terms for your members? I am all in favor of the most cordial coöperation between English and American workers.

With sincere regards and many thanks for your kind messages,

Yours most truly,

I. GOLLANCZ.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.
MADISON.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

September 12, 1911.

Dear Professor Gollancz:

I am exceedingly gratified—and I am sure every member of our committee will be—at the glad tidings contained in your letter of August 22, which, after sundry journeyings has at last reached me in the depths of the Maine woods. I have sent on to the Secretary of the Oxford Press all the applications for the Facsimile we received, and if it is supplied at the same price—five guineas—I have no doubt the orders will hold good.

We shall be delighted to coöperate with the E. E. T. S. in the publication of the Furnivall series. Will you be good enough to send me further particulars as to the price of the first issue and the other issues contemplated? Our committee will present its report at the Quadrennial Meeting of the M. L. A. in December, and that will be an excellent time to secure subscribers. If you prefer an earlier announcement, I shall be pleased to write a letter to *Modern Language Notes* and other publications in this country.

With hearty congratulations, I am

Yours very faithfully,

J. W. CUNLIFFE.

The report was received and the committee continued.

Professor John W. Cunliffe presented the following report of the Committee on the Announcement of Subjects for Doctoral Dissertations:

The Modern Language Association at the last meeting of the Eastern Division approved of the following report and appointed the undersigned to carry its recommendations into effect:

The Committee believes that the prompt and regular an-

nouncement in the *Publications* of subjects of doctoral dissertations seriously begun would be of advantage to scholarship, not merely by preventing duplication, but by stimulating research. To make the scheme effective, however, the coöperation of the leading graduate schools, not only on this continent, but in Europe, is obviously desirable. It is therefore recommended that a Committee of Three be nominated by the President to ascertain how far such coöperation could be secured, and to report to the Union Meeting of 1911.

As soon as the revised list of members was completed, the committee sent the voting paper given below to the members of the Association connected with the Universities included in the Association of American Universities, *viz.*: California, Catholic University of America (Washington, D. C.), Chicago, Clark, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Johns Hopkins, Kansas, Leland Stanford Junior, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Virginia, Wisconsin, Yale:—

1. I am in favor of the publication of subjects of doctoral dissertations certified by the professor in charge as "seriously begun."
2. I should be willing to report subjects as proposed above, if publication were decided upon by the Modern Language Association at its next meeting.

Voting papers were issued to the number of 380, and 285 replies were received; of these, 260 answered both 1 and 2 in the affirmative, 10 answered both in the negative, 14 answered the first negatively and the second affirmatively, in some cases subject to conditions, and one answered the first affirmatively and the second negatively. The minority of double negatives was composed of five members of professorial rank from Harvard, one each from California, Chicago, Columbia, Illinois, and Yale; those opposed to the plan of announcement, but willing to report, were from the following universities:—Yale 4, Harvard 2, Cornell, Indiana, Iowa, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Wisconsin, 1 each. The Committee invited an expression of opinion from some of those voting against the proposal, and attaches a selection from the replies received. It recommends that only the letters numbered 1 and 2 should be printed in the *Proceedings*. In view of the large majority in favor of the proposal, the Committee recommends a trial of the plan by voluntary announcement in *Modern Language Notes*.

Signed: J. W. CUNLIFFE, *Chairman*.
F. N. SCOTT.
H. A. TODD.

1

BERKELEY, CAL., December 12, 1911.

Dear Professor Cunliffe:

My vote on the publication of thesis-titles is a matter of personal judgment. I have not consulted the members of my Department.

1) I think that in such matters we should be guided by the results of practical experience. Experience of authors proves beyond doubt that it is unwise to announce to the world what you hope to publish, before you are ready to publish it.

2) The university world is already sufficiently apprised of the branches and details of investigation undertaken in graduate departments, by means of course-announcements and the only too plentiful publication of doctoral theses.

3) A student should no more cackle about his embryonic thesis than an inventor about his uncompleted machine. The elements of priority and novelty are of serious import in the success of the completed and published work. The suggestion savors too much of what I regard as the worst features of modern Americanism: acceleration, noise, and communism.

4) There may be fitly a dozen theses on the same subject. It is the result that counts, not the attempt. The announcement of theses "seriously begun" is much more likely to deter others from similar "serious beginnings," upon the same or similar investigations, than it is to warrant the completion of the "serious beginnings." It certainly would not stimulate wise men to similar advertisement of halfbaked products.

Yours sincerely,

C. M. GAYLEY.

P. S.—Please include the foregoing in the Committee's report.

2

CHICAGO, December 20, 1911.

PROFESSOR J. W. CUNLIFFE,

MADISON, WIS.

Dear Cunliffe:

My reasons for voting no on the plan to announce subjects of doctor's dissertations and for declining to announce the subjects of my own students are as follows: 1. It is unnecessary. In earlier days when the usual type of dissertation was a phonological or morphological study of the language of an Old or Middle English author, there was good reason for such an announcement, as two properly trained students working on the same problem would inevi-

tably duplicate results. But there are few such dissertations nowadays and practically all of them are of such a nature that it is rather an advantage to have the same subject treated by different persons with different equipments and different points of view. 2. It frequently happens here that a student after getting most of his training and selecting his dissertation subject is obliged to go into teaching which so occupies his time that it is several years before he can complete his dissertation. To announce his subject as soon as definitely chosen would either make it unavailable for others for several years or, if a time limit were set, would cause him to forfeit it before he could finish his work. 3. It often happens with us that a student instead of definitely formulating a dissertation subject at the start begins to work on a fairly large field and, as he proceeds with his work, he finds his subject gradually formulating itself. 4. An instructor often has a set of related problems bearing upon some larger problem and wishes to have the whole set worked out under his own direction. To announce one of these would often disclose or suggest the plan of the whole set. 5. If it is felt, as doubtless it would be, that these announcements constitute claims upon certain fields or subjects, questions of priority of claim would inevitably arise, not perhaps in regard to subjects formulated identically but in connection with subjects which run into one another.

I believe that these reasons are sufficient basis for my attitude.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. MANLY.

After a debate in which Professors G. L. Kittredge, J. W. Cunliffe, F. N. Scott, and H. A. Todd participated, Professor S. H. Bush moved that the recommendation of the committee be adopted. This motion was debated by Professors J. W. Bright and M. D. Learned, and being put to a vote, was lost by 25 to 68.

On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Bibliography of Modern Languages, Mr. J. Christian Bay reported progress; and on motion of Professor Raymond Weeks the report was accepted and the committee continued.

Professor W. G. Howard reported for the Committee on a Permanent Fund, accounting for contributions of

\$1,124.77 already received and making the following recommendations:

(1) That the Executive Council be requested to appoint three trustees upon terms that shall give effect to the following principles, to wit:

- a) The trustees shall receive and hold all unrestricted gifts, all payments for life membership, and all bequests and legacies to the Association which are not restricted to particular uses by the will of the testator.
- b) The trustees shall keep intact the principal of all sums entrusted to them and shall invest it at their discretion; provided, however, that if at any time the Association should be dissolved, the trustees shall then give and pay over to the trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching all moneys, principal and interest, and all rights, properties, and evidences of property by them held in trust for the benefit of this Association.
- c) The trustees shall annually on the third Monday in January pay the net income of all trust funds in their keeping to the Treasurer of the Association for the general uses thereof.

(2) That the Trustees to be appointed be charged with the administration, subject to the order of the Executive Council, of invested funds amounting to \$1,668.45 and \$1,112.60 now in the Eutaw Savings Bank of Baltimore and the Cambridge Savings Bank.

(3) That the annual bills sent out by the Treasurer contain, besides reference to the regulations concerning life membership, an unobtrusive invitation to members who have not contributed to the Permanent Fund to send contributions to the Treasurer for transmission to the Trustees.

(4) That the Committee be discharged and that no new committee on this subject be at present appointed.

On motion of Professor M. D. Learned the foregoing recommendations were unanimously adopted and the committee discharged.

[The Executive Council subsequently appointed Professors E. C. Armstrong, A. R. Hohlfeld, and W. A. Neilson, *Trustees*. On February first, the Permanent

Fund, augmented by a gift of \$5,000. from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, by other gifts, and by payments for life membership, amounted, with interest, to \$6,247.25.]

On motion of the Secretary the following amendments to the Constitution proposed by the Executiv Council were unanimously adopted:

1. That after the first sentence of III be inserted the words: "Persons who for twenty years or more hav been activ members in good and regular standing may, on retiring from activ servis as teachers, be continued as activ members without further payment of dues."

2. That to the third sentence of III be added the words: "Persons who for fifteen years or more have been activ members in good and regular standing may become life members upon the single payment of twenty-five dollars."

3. That to the last sentence of III be added the words: "But the number of honorary members shal not at any time excede forty."

4. That in IV, 1, line 4, the frase "the Chairmen of the several Divisions" be changed to "the Chairmen and Secretaries of the several Divisions."

On behalf of the Executiv Council the Secretary nominated Professor Gustave Lanson, of the University of Paris, for Honorary Membership in the Association; and he was unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

Professor C. H. Grandgent offerd the following resolution:

Resolvd: That the Modern Language Association concurs in the opinion that a uniform fonetic alfabet for key purposes in general reference books for English is very desirable both from an educational and from a scientific standpoint. We hereby express, therefore, our approval of the alfabet recommended for the purpose by the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association, and we join with that body in urging its general adoption as rapidly as may be practicable.

After discussion by Professors F. N. Scott, M. D.

Learned, Raymond Weeks, J. L. Lowes, F. G. Hubbard, O. F. Emerson, G. O. Curme, A. F. Kuersteiner, and R. J. Kellogg, Professor Weeks moved that the resolution be adopted; and the motion was carried.

Professor C. H. Grandgent presented the following motion:

Voted: That the Association hereby adopts the rules and recommendations of the Simplified Spelling Board in its Circular No. 23 of March 6, 1909, as the norm of spelling in the official publications and correspondence of the Association.

Professor H. B. Lathrop moved to lay the motion upon the table. Professor Lathrop's motion was lost. Whereupon the original motion being put to vote, it was carried, and the Association adopted the rules and recommendations proposed.

The reading and discussion of papers were then resumed.

7. "A Simple Phonetic Alphabet." By Professor Fred Newton Scott, of the University of Michigan.

[The paper attempted to answer the following question: What, theoretically, are the simplest visual symbols, on a phonetic basis, that can be substituted, in printing or typewriting, for the present English alphabet?—*Twenty minutes.*]

This paper was discussed by Professor Raymond Weeks.

8. "The Immediate Source of the Anglo-Saxon Poems *Exodus* and *Daniel*." By Professor James Wilson Bright, of the Johns Hopkins University.

[A recent discussion (*Modern Philology*, ix, 83 f.) of the sources of the *Exodus* is concluded with the statement that "the problem of its immediate source is still unsolved." This immediate source (of which a hint was given in the *Proceedings* of this Association for the year 1902, p. xxxiii) of both the *Exodus* and the *Daniel* was, it is believed, made incontrovertibly clear.—*Twenty-five minutes.*]

9. "The New Classification of Languages and Literatures by the Library of Congress." By Professor Adolf Carl von Noé, of the University of Chicago.

[By the end of 1912 the Library of Congress will have completed class P (languages and literatures) of its new classification scheme. It is a work of national importance and deserves the attention and coöperation of all American linguists. This paper attempted to analyze the scheme for class P and to discuss some important problems involved in it, for instance such as: 1. Should the Literature be grouped with the respective languages or be combined in a separate division?—2. Is it advisable to mass Fiction in one section (P Z)?—3. Should the Inscriptions be combined with the literatures or with the auxiliary sciences of history (Class C)?—4. Should the bibliography of the languages and literatures be combined with the subjects or mass in class Z (General Bibliography)?—*Twenty minutes.*]

At half past twelve o'clock on Thursday, December 28, the members and guests of the Modern Language Association of America lunched, by invitation of the University of Chicago, at the Quadrangle Club.

THIRD SESSION, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

The session began at 3 p. m.

Professor J. W. Bright moved:

That the next annual volume of the *Publications* of this Association be dedicated to Professor C. H. Grandgent, in grateful acknowledgment of his most competent and admirable service in behalf of the Association during his Secretaryship.

This motion was unanimously adopted.

The reading of papers was then resumed.

10. "Casmir Delavigne *Intime*. From unpublished letters of his father and other relatives in France to his

uncle residing in Louisiana." By Professor Alcée Fortier, of the Tulane University of Louisiana.

[Casimir Delavigne is judged with undue severity by several modern critics. His *Messéniennes* may be read with interest, and at least three of his plays have real merit: *l'Ecole des Vieillards*, *Louis XI*, and *la Popularité*. The letters from his relatives give an interesting account of Delavigne and of his times, and make us see the author at his work and at his home. They are important as a contribution to the history of a period which marks the rise and fall of the Romantic School, and they portray a man of high character, whose works were greatly esteemed by his contemporaries, and, to a certain extent, still deserve to be read for their intrinsic merit, and to be studied as part of the literary history of France.—*Thirty minutes*.]

11. "Luther's Use of the Pre-Lutheran Versions of the Bible." By Professor Warren Washburn Florer and Mr. Otto E. Fuelber, of the University of Michigan. [Read by Professor Florer.]

[The object of the investigation was to ascertain to what extent Luther used the earlier German translations in his version of the Bible. The paper consisted of a comparison of the Nürnberg edition (A. Koburger, 1483) with the 1522 edition of the New Testament. Luther borrowed more extensively from the 1483 version than scholars have held. The edition used for the basis of this paper is deposited in the library of the University of Notre Dame; a complete copy of the 1483 edition is in the library of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary.—*A fifteen-minute abstract*.]

This paper was discussed by Professor J. T. Hatfield.

12. "Early Relations between Britain and Ireland." By Professor Tom Peete Cross, of Sweet Briar College.

[It is generally admitted that the numerous parallels between early Irish literature and the romances of the so-called *matière de Bretagne* are doubtless largely due to a community of tradition between the Goidelic and Brythonic Celts, from the latter of whom the medieval *trouvères* ultimately derived much of their material. There was also another channel through which Celtic folk-lore might reach the writers of medieval romance. Communication between

Britain and Ireland during the first millennium of the Christian era was so frequent as to render possible the direct importation into Britain of Irish tales, which might later find their way into written literature.—*A fifteen-minute abstract.*]

13. "The Date of *All's Well that Ends Well*," By Professor John Livingston Lowes, of Washington University.

[A brief discussion of certain evidence in favor of assigning to the first form of *All's Well that Ends Well* a date not far from that usually given, of late years, for the final form (*i. e.*, not far from 1598-1601); together with an endeavor to show that the final form belongs considerably later—probably about 1606-08.—*Twenty minutes.*]

14. "A Rhythmical Test." By Dr. Ernst Feise, of the University of Wisconsin.

[This paper attempted to show by way of a metrical and methodical analysis of one of Heine's poems how much ground has been gained in the field of metrics thru new methods, and in what respect they are superior to those formerly used.—*Twenty-five minutes.*]

This paper was discussed by Professor John Morris.

15. "Chaucer's Earliest Public Service." By Professor Oliver Farrar Emerson, of Western Reserve University.

[Our scanty knowledge with regard to the public life of Chaucer in its relation to public affairs of his time. Such knowledge interesting in itself, and likely to be of value in explaining the origin or relations of his works. Illustrations from the military experience of 1369, the diplomatic journey to Italy in 1372, the appointment as justis of the peace for Kent in 1385. A more extended account of the campaign of Edward III in France in 1359-60, in its relation to Chaucer. The progress of the army more accurately marked. The appearance before Rhétel, in its relation to Chaucer's testimony in court in 1386. The probable time and circumstances of the capture by the French. The imprisonment, ransom, and return to the army. The return to England after the peace of Brétigny. Further service in the peace negotiations at Calais.—*Twenty minutes.*]

At the close of this session there was a meeting of the American Dialect Society.

On Thursday evening, December 28, at half past six o'clock, the ladies of the Association were the guests of the Modern Language faculties of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago at the University Club of Chicago.

On Thursday evening, December 28, at half past eight o'clock, the gentlemen of the Association met at the University Club of Chicago. A smoke talk was given by Professor George Lyman Kittredge.

FOURTH SESSION, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

The session began at 9.55 a. m.

Professor Edwin Mortimer Hopkins presented the following report of the Committee of Five on English Composition Teaching (a committee of the Central Division):

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE ON ENGLISH COMPOSITION TEACHING.

To keep within the assigned limit of time, the committee has distributed copies of its preliminary report published in April, and reprints of an article to appear January 15 in the new *English Journal*. In these are indicated the nature and some of the results of the work of the present year. Without going into detail, we wish first to call attention, from those who have not seen it, to the initial summary of the preliminary report, page 2, and especially to sections 7, 10, and 11, more painful than others, but not for that reason less true:

"7. Long continued criticism and correcting of manuscript is one of the severest tests of physical endurance to be found in any teaching, and the limit of full and continued